

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 621

Ensuring access to affordable and quality health care without increasing the Federal budget or contributing to market inflation while providing greater choices for patient-focused care for individuals and families.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Ensuring access to affordable and quality health care without increasing the Federal budget or contributing to market inflation while providing greater choices for patient-focused care for individuals and families.

Whereas there are real challenges facing the United States health care system, and Congress continues to debate how to expand access to affordable, quality health care and health insurance coverage;

Whereas the United States spends substantially more on health care than other developed countries, with total health care spending reaching \$2,200,000,000,000 a year or close to \$7,000 for each American;

Whereas health care spending consumes about 17 percent of the gross domestic product;

Whereas there are approximately 46 million uninsured in the United States;

Whereas 18 to 35 year olds are the most underinsured section of the population;

Whereas more than half of the uninsured work for a small business;

Whereas every American should have health insurance coverage and the freedom to choose and control it;

Whereas health care is personal and the doctor-patient relationship must be protected;

Whereas Americans value choice and control over their health care decisions;

Whereas greater government involvement in our Nation's health sector would lead to higher costs, fewer medical discoveries and treatments, delays in access to care, and excessive and expensive increases in paperwork and bureaucracy;

Whereas Americans can improve quality and access in a way that also reduces costs by bringing more competition and choice into the health care sector and by giving people additional tools and incentives to become equal partners in managing their health spending and their care; and

Whereas Americans must begin to refocus our Nation's health sector on encouraging wellness and prevention, since health problems caught early are far less expensive to effectively address and treat: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that in order to ensure access to affordable

1 and quality health care without increasing the Federal
2 budget or contributing to market inflation while providing
3 greater choices for patient-focused care for individuals and
4 families, the following principles should be included in any
5 health care bill considered by the 111th Congress:

6 (1) The ability to receive point-of-service health
7 care in preventative, emergency, and rehabilitative
8 settings in rural and urban areas. This must also
9 advance critical health care training programs to re-
10 tain health care professionals and find a meaningful,
11 long-term solution for the sustainable growth rate
12 formula that will accurately reimburse physicians for
13 the care they provide to Medicare beneficiaries.

14 (2) With refundable tax credits for the pur-
15 chase of health insurance by low-income recipients
16 together with tax credits for small businesses and
17 access to association and small business, the cost of
18 health care is within the reach of families and indi-
19 viduals while reducing costs without hurting the pa-
20 tient.

21 (3) Medical liability reform to bring much need-
22 ed change to the civil justice system that is being ex-
23 ploited by trial lawyers and is responsible for driving
24 up malpractice and health care costs.

1 (4) Safe and effective health service with meas-
2 urable results through the implementation of health
3 information technology.

4 (5) Build new incentives into health plans to
5 encourage wellness, prevention, and to provide incen-
6 tives for people to make smart choices involving
7 their health, care, treatment, and health insurance
8 coverage.

9 (6) Give people the ability to choose the best
10 health care plan and options to meet their individual
11 and family needs through portable health insurance
12 and Health Savings Accounts.

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